

# News Release

# Senator Pete V. Domenici

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## DOMENICI PURSUES NEW AVENUE TO SECURE AIRCRAFT FOR ENMU-R AVIATION TRAINING

WASHINGTON -- Senator Pete Domenici today explored a new avenue in his effort to help secure surplus aircraft on which students enrolled in the Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell aviation maintenance program can train.

Domenici today solicited the support of an Illinois-based company with operations at the Roswell Industrial Air Center for assistance in acquiring surplus aircraft for ENMU-R's FAA-certified aviation maintenance training program. The Senator made the request in a letter to Phil Slapke, president of the AAR Asset Management and Service Group in Wood Dale, Ill. AAR has an aviation maintenance operation in Roswell.

"I am still looking for every opportunity to find the aircraft ENMU-R needs to train its students to be aviation mechanics and safety experts," Domenici said. "If a private firm with interests already in Roswell can provide that help, then I want them to know that I am 100 percent behind the school and endorse any support from the company."

"I am happy to hear," Domenici wrote Slapke, "that your company may add to the effort to assist the aviation maintenance program at ENMU-R."

"The school is FAA-certified and enjoys an outstanding reputation for turning out skilled aviation maintenance workers. Because of the nationwide shortage of aviation workers and the impressive reputation of the school, I have made it a priority to assist ENMU-R in its efforts to further expand its program. I have requested federal funds this year to support personnel and equipment needs to expand the program, and also have discussed the school with representatives of various air carriers operating in the region."

Domenici is actively working to get the Defense Department to answer an ENMU-R request for two surplus 737 aircraft in Arizona. The school is also seeking helicopters for its training program. The Senator is working with ENMU-R, Roswell and Chaves County officials to promote the aviation maintenance program, which he considers an important component for job creation and economic development in the Roswell area.

